WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Implementation of the Tribal Rights Bill

*184. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TIRBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee of retired officials to suggest rules for implementing the Tribal Rights Bill;

(b) the purpose of this Committee;

(c) whether Government are facing a shortage of talent in framing rules;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to fix a strict time limit of three months for the said Committee to be wound up; and

(e) the measures proposed to evolve a balanced and sustainable set of rules;

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has constituted a Technical Support Group on 12.2.2007 for framing the draft rules for carrying out the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The Technical Support Group has 21 members consisting of reputed experts and officials from concerned Ministries/Departments. The experts include two retired Government officials.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Technical Support Group has been asked to prepare the draft rules within 3 month from the date of its constitution.

(e) The Technial Support Group has been constituted with experts from different fields specifically to ensure that a balanced and sustainable set of rules is prepared. The Group will hold consultations with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and concerned experts before finalising the draft rules. Prior publication of the draft rules, as required under the Act, will also be done to elicit comments and suggestions of the public before the rules are finalised.